IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. A pond cover comprising:

a plurality of panel units linked together;

means for insulating said pond cover, said insulating means comprising a generally rectangular layer of insulation wherein each of said panel units is filled internally with said layer of insulation and is sealed at either end and along either side by welding; and

means for linking said panel units together and securing said pond cover in position on a pond, said linking means comprising grommets disposed along each sealed end of each of said panel units, and each of said panel units is linked in vertical spaced relationship to an adjacent panel unit by at least one cable disposed through said vertical spaced grommets and formed into a loop projecting above said panel units, and said securing means including a second cable which is disposed through a row of said loops and is anchored at either of its end to an anchoring means.

3. The pond cover of claim 2 wherein the loops disposed the grommets project both above and below the panel units.

4. The pond cover of claim 2 wherein the loops disposed about the second cable are disposed through said grommets.

5. A pond cover comprising:

a plurality of panels; and

means for linking and de-linking the panels comprising openings defined in the panels and substantially oval-shaped loops interconnecting the adjacent panels through adjacent openings in the panels.

6. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the panels are rectangular.

7. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the panels are formed of a geomembrane.

8. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the panels are approximately seven and one-half feet wide and approximately forty feet long.

9. The pond cover of claim 5 further comprising:

means for controlling temperature.

10. The pond cover of claim 9 wherein the means for controlling temperature comprises:

insulation material sealed inside the panels.

11. The pond cover of claim 10 wherein the insulating material is sealed inside the panels by a weld.

12. The pond cover of claim 9 wherein the means for controlling temperature comprises:

a rectangular layer of insulation.

[13. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the means for linking further comprises:

openings defined in the panels; and

means for interconnecting the openings.]

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14. The pond cover of claim [13] 5 wherein the means for linking further comprises:

grommets circumscribing the openings.

15. The pond cover of claim [13] 5 wherein the openings are adjacent to edges of the panels.

16. The pond cover of claim [13] 5 wherein the openings of adjacent panels are in a vertical spaced relationship.

[17. The pond cover of claim 13 wherein the means for interconnecting comprises:

at least one fastener inserted through at least one opening; and

means for securing the fastener in a loop.]

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18. The pond cover of claim [13] 5 further comprising:

means for locking and unlocking the [interconnecting means] fastener relative to the openings in the panels.

The pond cover of claim 5 further comprising:

means for anchoring the cover in a desired position.

20. The pond cover of claim 19 wherein the means for anchoring comprises:

at least one tie-down cable; and

means for anchoring the tie-down cable.

21. The pond cover of claim 19 wherein the anchoring means comprises an anchoring trench.

22. The pond cover of claim 20 wherein the tie-down cable interacts with the means for linking.

23. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the means for linking joins the panels in a partially overlapping relationship.

24. The cover of claim 5 wherein the cover is supported above aqueous solutions.

25. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the cover is a waste treatment pond cover.

26. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the means for linking and de-linking the panels, includes an elongated member which passes through an opening in at least one panel.

27. The pond cover of claim 5 wherein the cover overlies a tank.

28. A method of manipulating a pond cover comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of panels defining openings;

linking adjacent [the plurality of] panels through adjacent openings with at least one loop, the loop being oval-shaped; and

de-linking the plurality of panels.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of forming further comprises the step of:

forming rectangular panels.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of forming further comprises the step of:

forming panels that are approximately seven and one-half feet wide and approximately forty feet long.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of forming further comprises the step of:

forming a plurality of panels from a geomembrane.

32. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of forming further comprises the step of:

insulating the panels.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the step of insulating further comprises the step of:

sealing insulation inside the panels.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the step of sealing further comprises the step of:

welding the insulating material inside the panels.

35. The method of claim 32 wherein the step of insulating further comprises the step of:

insulating with a rectangular layer of insulation.

36. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of linking further comprises the steps of:

defining openings in the panels; and

interconnecting the openings.

37. The method of claim [36] 28 wherein the step of [defining] forming further comprises the step of:

circumscribing the openings with grommets.

38. The method of claim [36] 28 wherein the step [defining] forming further comprises the step of:

defining the openings adjacent edges of the panels.

39. The method of claim [36] 28 wherein the step of linking further comprises the steps of:

orienting the openings of adjacent panels in a vertical spaced relationship.

40. The method of claim [36] 28 wherein the step of [interconnecting] forming a loop further comprises the step of:

inserting a cable through at least one loop forming at least one fastener;

[inserting at least one fastener through at least one opening].

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of [interconnecting] forming a loop further comprises the step of:

locking and unlocking the fastener relative to the openings in the panels.

42. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of:

anchoring the cover.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the step of anchoring further comprises the step of:

anchoring the cover with an anchoring trench.

44. The method of claim 42 wherein the step of anchoring further comprises the step of:

anchoring the cover with at least one tie-down cable.

45. The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of:

anchoring the cover with at least one tie-down cable, the tie-down cable [interacting with] passing through at least one fastener.

46. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of linking further comprises the step of:

orienting the panels in a partially overlapping relationship.

47. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of:

supporting the cover above aqueous solutions.

48. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of linking further comprises the step of:

linking the panels together to cover a waste treatment pond.

REMARKS

This amendment is a revision/replacement of the Amendment filed on April 22, 1999, which was a revision/replacement of the Amendment filed on December 18, 1998